

CLAIMS:

1. An apparatus for processing a signal that contains a stream of encrypted data and a plurality of individually identified streams of messages, each of the streams of messages containing decryption information for decrypting a common part of the encrypted data, the apparatus comprising
 - 5 - an input for the signal;
 - a storage device for storing and retrieving the signal or part of the signal;
 - a rendering unit;
 - a mode selection unit arranged to select an operating mode from a plurality of modes including a live rendering mode and a replay mode for rendering the signal with the rendering unit when received from the input and when retrieved from the storage device
10 respectively;
 - a decoder for decrypting the encrypted data using a selectable one of the streams of messages, if entitled to use said selectable one of the streams, the decoder selecting the stream of messages dependent on the selected operating mode.
- 15 2. An apparatus according to Claim 1, the storage device being arranged to block out from the signal, during storage of the signal, at least one of the streams of messages other than the stream of messages that the decoder selects in the replay mode.
- 20 3. An apparatus according to Claim 2, the decoder being arranged to detect the selected operating mode from the presence or absence of the at least one of the streams that is blocked out from the signal during storage.
4. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises a
25 transcoder, the plurality of modes including a transcoding mode, the apparatus being arranged to transcode the signal when the mode selection unit selects the transcoding mode.
5. A method of distributing a signal that contains a stream of encrypted data, the method comprising

- including a plurality of individually identified streams of messages with the stream, each of the streams of messages containing decryption information for decrypting a common part of the encrypted data;
- distributing authorization information to receivers of the stream, providing each receiver with a selected authorization, the authorizations being selected from a set of authorizations that includes at least one authorization to use combinations of the streams of messages to decode the encrypted data, the authorization being selected depending on availability in the receiver of respective entitlements for respective ones of the authorizations.

6. A signal distribution system, for distributing a signal that contains a stream of encrypted data, the system comprising

- a signal assembly unit that is arranged to include a plurality of individually identified streams of messages with the stream, each of the streams of messages containing decryption information for decrypting a common part of the encrypted data;
- a transmission unit for broadcasting the assembled signal;
- an authorization information distribution unit, for distributing authorization information to receivers of the stream, providing each receiver with a selected authorization, the authorizations being selected from a set of authorizations that includes at least one authorization to use combinations of the streams of messages to decode the encrypted data, the authorization being selected depending on availability in the receiver of respective entitlements for respective ones of authorizations.